

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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16 AS and C-141 closing ceremonies planned for next week

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

I went to an American Red Cross board of directors meeting recently and was reminded about all the things that they do for our military members. The American Red Cross is uniquely equipped to provide an exclusive worldwide communications and support network that serves as a lifeline between military service members and their families. For the military member, the Red Cross is the connection to home, relaying urgent information — a family crisis, a death in the family, a financial emergency, or a joyous birth.

Red Cross services

Emergency communications—Keeping military personnel in touch with their families during family emergencies such as death, serious illness or the birth of a child. Red Cross emergency messages provide military personnel and their commanders with fast, reliable information to help them make decisions about emergency leave, deferment, compassionate reassignment and dependency discharge. The American Red Cross transmits more than 1.4 million emergency messages each year to members of the U.S. Armed Services and their families.

Financial assistance—Working with military aid societies to provide interest-free loans or grants when urgent personal or family crises arise. Financial aid is used for such things as emergency travel, burial assistance, food and shelter.

Counseling—Providing counseling, information, referrals and other social services to military families.

Veterans—Assisting veterans in claiming financial benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs and providing support services to patients in Veterans Administration hospitals.

Working through 450 paid staff members and 40,000 volunteers worldwide, the Red Cross achieved the following goals in helping members of the armed forces during the past year:

- Relayed 4,000 emergency messages between members of the Armed Forces and their families every day—one every 22 seconds.

- Assisted nearly 489,000 members of the Armed Forces and their families with emergency communications and related services.

- Provided \$6.2 million in financial aid from military aid societies to more than 8,000 service members and their families.

The Red Cross is a great volunteer organization that needs our support too. Because they are always there, we should not risk taking them for granted. The Red Cross has always been a volunteer organization that has relied upon public support of its programs. Please call them at 744-8021 if you would like to make a donation or volunteer your time.

DV visit

On July 11-12, we have a visit from Ms. Darleen A. Druyun, principal deputy assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition and Management. In this group, we also have retired Gen. Duane Cassidy, a former commander of

Military Airlift Command, Blaise Durante, deputy assistant secretary for Management, Policy, and Program Integration, Bill Farrell, from the Air Force 2002 office in the Pentagon and Bill Boesch, an Air Force consultant.

They will receive a C-17 orientation flight, ride the simulator and receive the wing mission briefing. Ms. Druyun is a big supporter of the C-17 and has been actively involved with the acquisition of the C-17 for a long time. This will be her first opportunity to see a C-17 operation and learn first hand about this weapon system from the men and women who operate it. She was also involved with the acquisition of the 60K Tunnor loader. We expect to have a great visit and want to give her as much hands on experience as possible.

C-141farewell

On July 15, the 16th Airlift Squadron will hold its deactivation ceremony. This ceremony marks the end of the C-141B Starlifter's era at Charleston. There are a number of events scheduled to commemorate the C-141's departure from Charleston. Please show your support by attending many of these events. Let's send off the C-141s in true Team Charleston style.

Brief rundown of events:

- On Friday, July 14, there will be a golf tournament held at the Wrenwoods golf course. The games begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. followed by a BBQ lunch. Cost is \$30 for green fees, cart, and lunch. If you are interested in participating, please contact Wrenwoods at 963-4175. The proceeds will be used to benefit the Year of the Family activities.

- Later that same day, there will be a special retreat at the flagpole across from the Wing Headquarters (Bldg. 1600). The retreat begins at 4:30 p.m. so make sure you arrive by 4:15 p.m. The retreat will end with a C-141 fly-by. Attire for active duty members will be uniform of the day. Civilian and retired military may use casual dress.

- On Friday evening, there will be a social open to everyone at the Charleston Consolidated Club at 6 p.m. We are planning to have a couple of guest speakers early in the evening with a band to follow. A buffet style dinner is provided to those who paid the registration fee of \$20. Dress is casual.

- On Saturday, July 15, a 16th Airlift Squadron deactivation ceremony will be held in the C-17 nosedock (Bldg. 519) at 9 a.m. The ceremony will last approximately one hour. Dress will be comfortable clothing and shoes. Following the ceremony a C-141 and a C-17 static display will be available for viewing. Parking will be available in the lot adjacent to the nosedock.

If you have any questions about these events, please contact 1st Lt. Robby Hanovich at 963-2129.

Softball

The Field Grade/Top 3 softball game last week was lots of fun. We need to do that more often. Gee, it's funny, I cannot remember the score for some reason, besides the score is not important.

Colonel Findley returns this week and is anxious to get back to what he loves most - running "the best airlift wing on the face of the planet." Have a great Air Force weekend!

Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at 963-5581 or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil.

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.

